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| I. | Claims 1-11 and 12-22 | Drawn to a method of preparing an article surface, classified in class 134, subclass 26. |
| II. | Claims 23-24 | Drawn to a method of removing water and water soluble impurities from a workpiece surface, classified in class 134, subclass 32. |
| III. | Claims 25-28 | Drawn to a method of removing a surface component from a workpiece surface, classified in class 134, subclass 2. |
| IV. | Claims 29-30 | Drawn to an apparatus for preparing a workpiece surface, classified in class 134, subclass 182. |

Group I is provisionally elected with traverse.

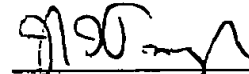
Claims 1-11 and 12-22 are directed to a method for preparing an article surface. Claims 23 and 24 are directed to a method of removing water and water soluble impurities from a workpiece surface comprising similar steps to the claims of Group I. Claims 25-28 likewise are directed to a method of removing a surface component from a workpiece surface comprising two fluids of different densities, similar to that of claims of Group I and Group II. Likewise, the claims of Group IV, claims 29-30 are directed to an apparatus for preparing a workpiece surface utilizing multiple fluids employing the method steps of the claims of Group I, II and III.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that 35 USC § 121 authorize the restriction only when the claimed invention is "independent and

distinct" (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that a search pertaining to one of the above-identified groups would necessarily encompass subject matter of the other groups and separate searches for each group would be unwarranted and duplicative. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that all the groups are not directed to independent and distinct inventions and that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the requirement for restriction.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement and an action on the merits of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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